punishable with imprisonment extending upto 3 years and fine extending upto Rs. 20,000/-.

The vires of these amendments have already been upheld by the Supreme Court in 1980.

The State Governments have been asked to take both punitive and preventive action against the offenders in terms of the Nationalisation Acts read with provisions of the Indian Penal Code. The coal companies have been directed to report the cases of illegal extraction of coal as and when detected by them to the law enforcing authorities in the States. Besides, the coal companies in conjunction with the State Government's law enforcing authorities in the States conduct surprise raids to apprehend offenders.

Shuttle service between Ahmedabad and Bombay

2015. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any request from Gujarat Government to start shuttle service between Ahmedabad and Bombay to be connected with international flights; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A single service as requested for would not be able to cater effectively to the numerous international flights arriving/departing with varied timings. Instead, multiplicity of choice offered by the connections provided by the existing scheduled flights between Bombay and Ahmedabad cater to the requirements in a better way.

Coal Linkage to Narmada Thermal Power Station in Gujarat

2016. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narmada Thermal Power Station in Gujarat has been given coal linkage; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government are aware that the delay in sanctioning this coal linkage will lead to a deficit in meeting the demand for power in agricultural and Industrial sectors in the State during the Eighth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Coal linkage to the Narmada Thermal Power Station in Gujarat has not been given so far as it has not been identified by the Planning Commission for yielding benefits during the Eighth Plan period. However, various other power projects to be set up, both in the Central and State sectors, would yield benefits to Madhya Pradesh during the Eighth Plan period.

Kutch Tidal Power Project

2017. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the Kutch Tidal Power Project;

(b) by when the project is likely to be sanctioned by Government; and

(c) what is the likely date of its commencement?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The Central Electricity Authority, while evaluating the techno-economic feasibility report of the Kutch Tidal Power Project during 1988-89, considered it necessary to carry out additional investigations and studies on certain aspects of the project. These investigations/studies are under progress.

(b) Further action in regard to